

THE DEACONESSES

Of the Lutheran Church in Europe and America.

The great things achieved for the welfare of mankind are not usually the result of a fortunate combination of circumstances, but are accomplished by the force of individual character in the face of hindrances and difficulties. Thus the establishment of the first Protestant Deaconess Institution, and with it the restoration of the female Deaconess of the early Church, was effected by the Rev. Theodore Fliedner, a humble Lutheran country pastor, without money or influence, and in the midst of a Roman Catholic community.

It is difficult to realize that such splendid results have had so insignificant a beginning. "A table, a few broken-backed chairs, two pronged forks, worn knives, worn-out bedsteads, and similar furniture and utensils. Such were the household supplies with which the institution was opened. On Oct. 10, 1836, the first patient, a Roman Catholic servant girl, was admitted, and on the following day Sister Gertrude Richards, the first Deaconess, arrived. At the end of the month the number of patients had increased to four, and the supply of sheets being limited to seven, Sister Gertrude spent her evenings at the wash-tub, and dried her scanty share of bed-linen by the sitting-room stove.

This was the beginning of an institution whose branches extend today over the continents. Sixty-three Mother houses are now in

lines, the cheerful faces of the busy women engaged in their unvarying work of mercy, will be convinced that "the lines are fallen unto them in pleasant places."

The Deaconess is not cut off from her family and friends. She retains control of whatever property she may possess, and is free to marry or to return to her parents if they demand it. She receives her board, clothing, and a sufficient allowance of pocket money, care in time of sickness, and allows in her old age. Once each year she has a vacation of about four weeks, which she spends either at the Health Station of her Mother house or among her relatives. The Sisters of the Mary J. Drexel Home usually take their rest in the delightful cottage at Cape May Point, built by the generous friend of the Deaconess cause, Mr. Lankenau.

Besides the Sisters employed as nurses in the German Hospital, three are engaged in parish work, two have the care of a day nursery in Germantown, and two others manage a hospital at Easton, Pa. A Deaconess, Sister Emilie, is Principal of the girl's school, and wherever it is possible Deaconesses are employed as teachers.

Other Lutheran Deaconess Houses in America are the Swedish Houses at Omaha, established by Rev. E. A. Fogelstrom; the Norwegian Houses at Minneapolis, Brooklyn, and Chicago, and the English House in Connecticut, with the Lutheran Hospital at Milwaukee, while an emergency hospital at Chicago, an infirmary at Pittsburg, and a hospital at Jacksonville, Ill., are under the care of Deaconesses.

In the United States the introduction of Deaconess work has been of rather recent date. An effort was made in 1845 by the Rev. Dr. Passavant, who, after visiting the Mother houses in Germany, returned to America, and in 1874, when the President of the German Hospital in Philadelphia, Mr. John D. Lankenau, and his friend, Consul Charles Meyer, secured a little band of seven Sisters, with Sister Superior, to take charge of the hospital work. The idea then suggested itself to Mr. Lankenau of establishing a Deaconess Mother House, and on Dec. 6, 1888,

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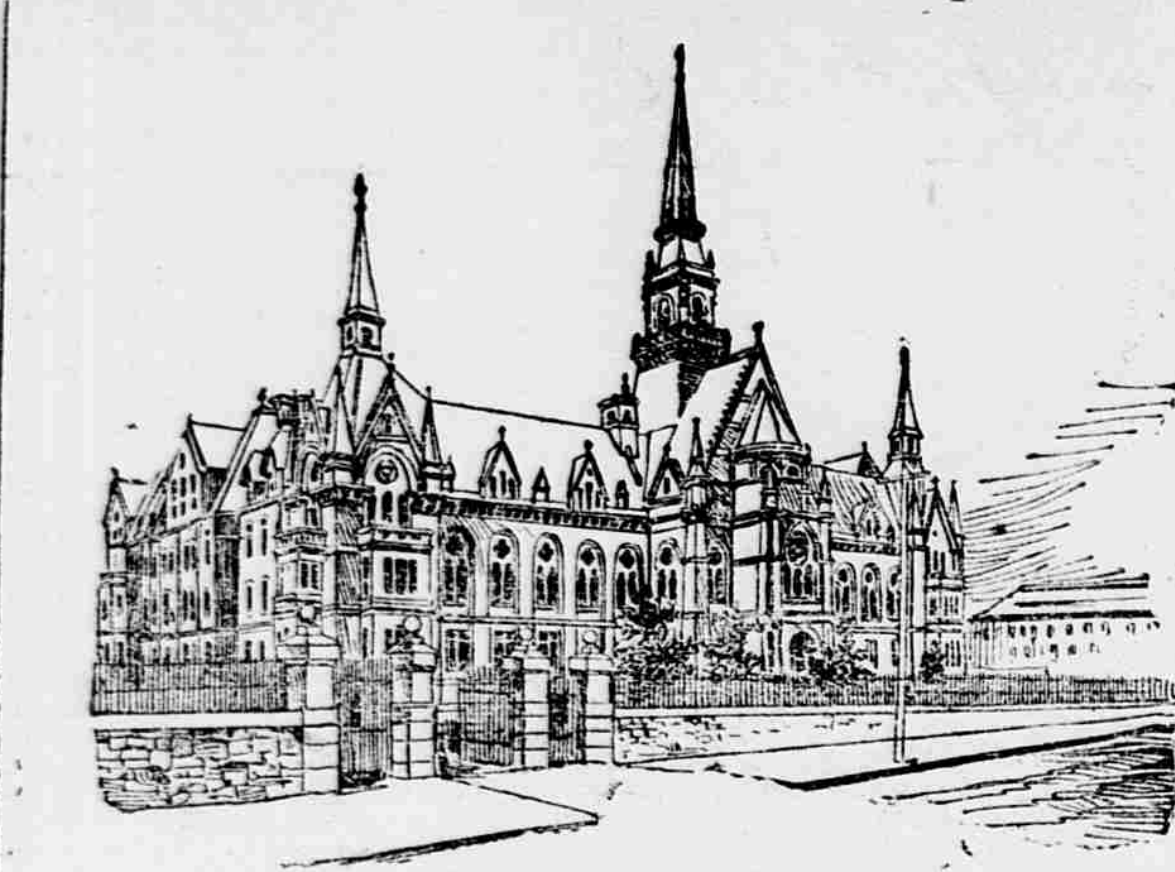
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MARY J. DREXEL HOME, GIRARD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA.

them order and cleanliness; see to it that the neglected children are sent to week-day and Sunday-school; find work for the unemployed; teach the women to sew and mend; look after the factory girls in the large cities, and, in short, give their help wherever it is needed.

The teaching Sister begins with the very smallest—the babies in the day nursery, where mothers are obliged to earn their daily bread away from their homes. Here she feeds and tends them during the day, at a nominal charge until the mothers call for them at the end of the day's work. The model institution of this kind is at Linden, a suburb of Hanover, where the owners of the great weaving factories have established a day nursery for the children of their operatives. The nursery is succeeded by the little children's school, and this again by the elementary school. About seven years ago 500 such institutions, including orphanages and high-grade schools, were under the care of Deaconesses.

The Sisters, upon entering the Mother house, undergo a preliminary probation of about six weeks. If they are found to be fitted for the calling, they are then admitted as probationers. At the end of this probation, which continues from two to four years, they are consecrated to the office of Deaconesses. A special course of instruction, bearing upon the duties of the calling, is prescribed for the probationers, and is chiefly in the hands of the training Sister. Religious instruction is given by the teacher and medical and surgical instruction by the physicians of the institution.

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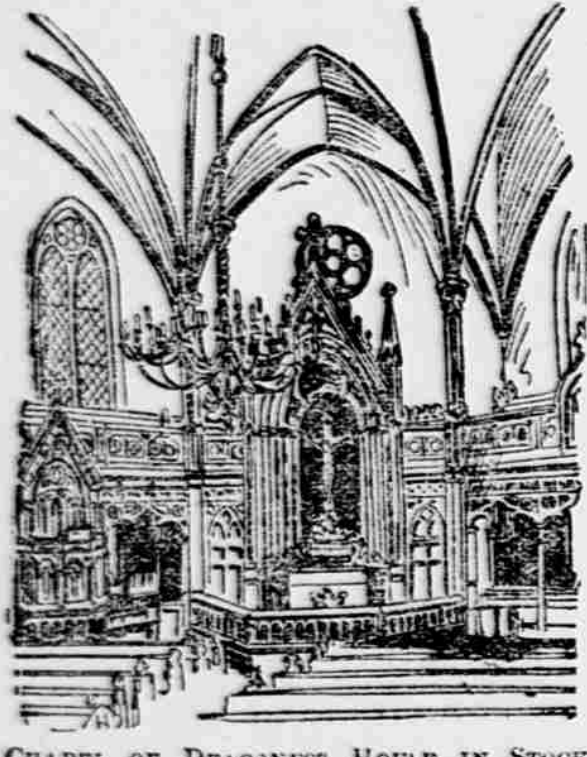
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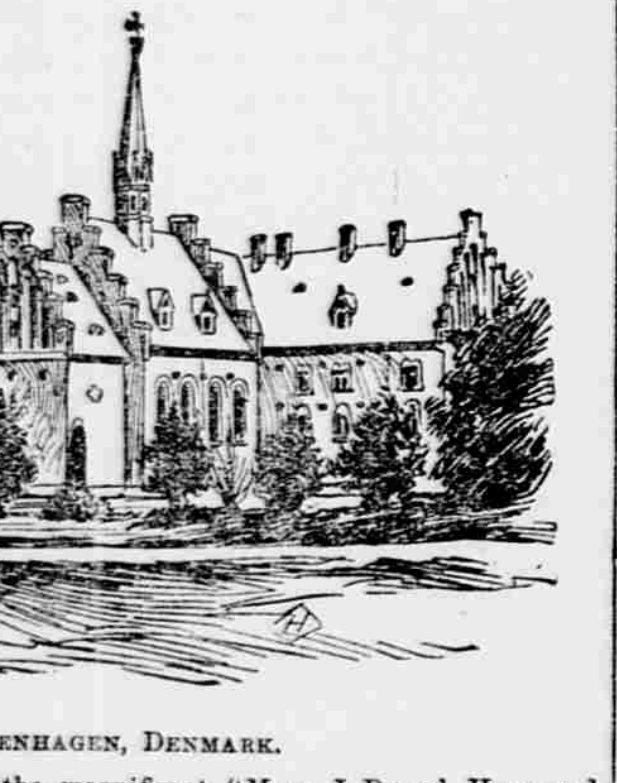
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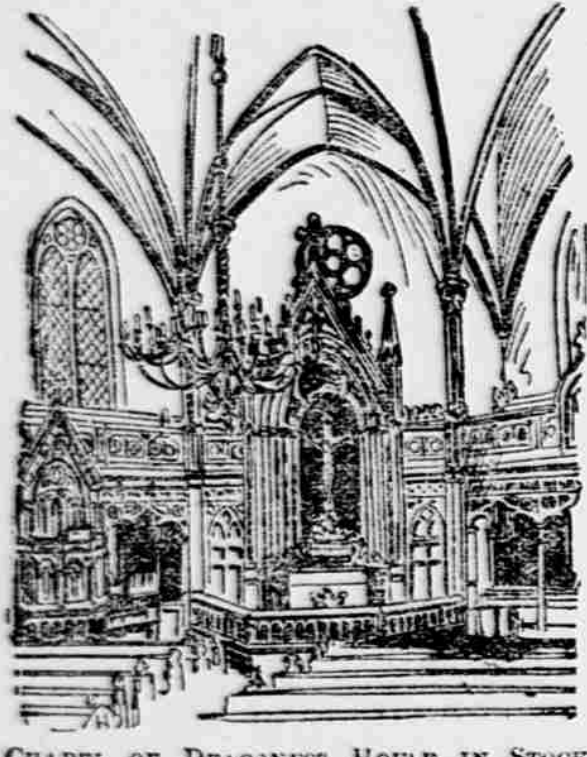
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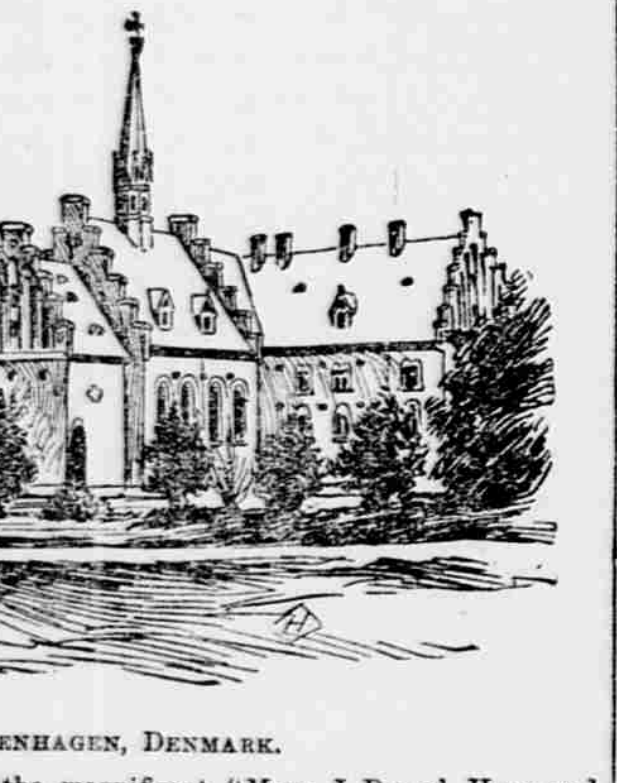
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RECENT LITERATURE.

MAID MARIAN AND ROBIN HOOD. By J. E. Muller. Author of the "Head Master." "For Gail and the Gray." Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, and for sale at Brentano's, Washington, D. C. Price 35 cents.

In this delightful romance of old Sherwood Forest, all the old-time heroes and fair women whom we used so much to while away the summer hours with in the greenwood are before us, and the story is told with vim and rapidity of movement. The volume is embellished by some very natural and spirited illustrations by Stanley L. Wood.

SOUVENIR OF THE 50TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT. Published by the Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa. Price 25 cents.

This is a production of unusual interest and value. Besides a mass of valuable statistical and historical matter relating to the Grand Army of the Republic, it is an admirable guide-book to Washington, with full descriptions of all places of historic and other interest. Admirable illustrations of the public buildings, statues, etc., embellish the book. It is the best souvenir published, and possesses a permanent value.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A 19TH CENTURY SCRAPER. By John L. Suggs. Published by the Athletic Publishing Co., New York. Price 3 cents.

Apropos of the downfall of John L. Sullivan appears this laughable and witty burlesque on the prize ring and the life of a champion pugilist. While it is the fashion to take an interest in athletic sports and to encourage brute strength, although physical as well as mental perfection ought to be encouraged. It is for this reason that the unknown author has produced under a veil of humor this piece of satire on such matters of brutality and grossness as that of Sullivan's.

THE TIDDLERWINKS POETRY BOOK. By John Kendrick Burt Foster. Published by H. H. Holt & Co., New York City.

Mr. Bangs is a very funny writer at times, and the readers of his "Tiddlerwink Tales" will be surprised to find that he has even better appreciated the kind of humor which appeals to children than the didactic in his last book. Mr. Charles Howard Johnson has illustrated the volume with clever conceits, and there is much fun in store for the little ones who open its pages.

PREMIERES LECONS DE GRAMMAIRE FRANCAISE. For the use of French instruction in the French language which appears to make some substantial advances beyond anything before issued, either for class use or for those who are attempting to learn the language alone. It is based upon, or may rather be said to be a variation of, the natural method of teaching languages introduced into this country by Prof. Sauer. One of the joint authors of the work, indeed, is Prof. Sauer's daughter, and the other a pupil of his famous school. Sauer, being a Frenchman seems to have failed to have comprehended certain difficulties encountered by his American pupils in the early stages of study under his method. His daughter and his pupil, however, seem to have caught the key to the difficulty, and they present a work which will be welcomed by those who have found complications and difficulties too intricate for ready mastery in the instruction books heretofore offered. It is the design of the authors that this work should be used by beginners before any other work now in print shall be taken up in the prosecution of a course in French, and it is a work which we would understand by a primer in English.

A NATURAL METHOD OF PHYSICAL TRAINING. Making Muscles and Flesh without Dieting or Apparatus. By Edwin Checkley. Published by William C. Bryant & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y. With numerous illustrations by H. D. Eggleston. Price \$1.50.

The success of Mr. Checkley's rational system of physical training has made itself apparent in the widespread circulation of his practical little work, and in the hundreds of letters he has received testifying to personal satisfaction and improvement to health and strength after a trial of it. It is a book to teach health and strength to the masses, and its applications are so simple that a child could follow them out.

PRINCE ELEANOR'S WIDOW. A Story of the Russo-Turkish War. By Richard Henry Savage, author of "My Official Wife," "The Little Lady of the Legation," etc. For sale by the American News Co., New York. Price 50 cents.

GOLD OF PLEASURE. By George Parsons Latrop. Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. Price 50 cents.

Those who were the absorbed readers of "An Echo of Passion," and "Would You Kill Him?" will be truly interested in this Mr. Latrop's best novel.

LIFE OF GROVER CLEVELAND. With a sketch of the life of his wife, Frances F. Parker, editor of "The Writings and Speeches of Grover Cleveland." Published by the Cassell Publishing Co., New York. Price 50 cents.

Magazines and Notes.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. has issued a very finely-illustrated and interesting book of the routes and rates for their Summer and Fall tours. There is no place worthy of a visit, in the hills and forests, and along the coast of Canada in the North, to the pine-forested mountains and lakes of the South, where the picturesque B. & O. and its connections will not carry you swiftly and safely. At no time in the history of the great highway has there been a road as the Baltimore & Ohio, there is no excuse for any American remaining in ignorance of the supreme beauty of his native land, or for his hesitating in the matter of Summer or Autumn travel.



Directoire styles are again in vogue. Several years ago they monopolized women's affections entirely. The broad lapels and big buttons were seen everywhere. This year they have to divide the honors with the Russian blouse, the Watteau pleat, and the Empire gown. In



the costume shown the material used is black with lapel facings, belt, collar, and cuffs of green and black velvet. The lapels are decorated, each one with a big button, and another button fastens the coat on one side. The sash is folded and has one end finished up with a bow and a pendant. A little band of trimming outlines the vest piece, and distinguishes it from the lapels. The hat worn with the costume is a black one trimmed with black and green.

This frock would make up very prettily in gray and white, using white for the vest and other parts where green is used in the gown shown. A narrow band of gray and silver velvet just above the hem or facing of the skirt, as well as on the vest, would add a pretty touch. Gray and white is a dainty combination for a gown and one that does not seem to go out of style.

A dainty tea table with a kettle and lamp makes an acceptable gift to any woman, be she young or old, the only condition being that she has not one already. The English women, from whom we get our 5 o'clock tea ideas, serve tea and wafers every evening about 5 o'clock. The regular dinner is served late—8 or 9 o'clock—and something of the sort is almost necessary. We Americans do not, as a rule, have our evening meal, be it dinner or supper, so late, but we have found a use for the "tea" table. On her regular "At Home" day a woman likes to serve a little refreshment to her guests. Often it takes a very simple form—tea and cakes or crackers, with perhaps thin slices of buttered bread or sandwiches, and salted almonds. Sometimes it is more elaborate, and salads and ice, candies, jellies, olives, and other things are added. In some houses the kettle is in frequent use. For any caller who may happen in during the afternoon a fragrant cup of tea is made, and there is always a plate of crackers or cakes handy. Then, some girls light the little lamp, set the kettle boiling and make cups of chocolate or tea during the evening about 9 o'clock when men are calling on them, and make it right jolly.

The table itself is just an ordinary one of a good size to hold the cups and saucers, a dish or two, the spoons, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, and whatever else happens to be used. It is covered with a tea cloth, embroidered or plain. The china used should be dainty and small. Odd pieces are most liked. Souvenir spoons

add a great deal to the interest of a tea table. Then, there is the little shining brass kettle, the wrought-iron stand and the tiny alcohol lamp. Cracker jars often are used on the table.

English muffins toasted and served hot are very nice to serve with the tea. They are made by taking one and one-half pounds of flour, adding one pint of tepid water and one-half gill (three large tablespoons) of yeast and a half teaspoonful of salt. Let it rise at night and the next morning roll it out very thin, and cut with a tinplate cover round pieces about five inches across. Butter a griddle lightly and let them stand on the back of the stove for a few minutes to rise. Draw them forward and let them bake slowly, turning frequently to keep them flat. When they are done, break them open and butter them, or break them open and toast them, and then butter them. Good muffins can be made of bread sponge to which has been added a little flour so that it can be rolled out.

The palm-leaf design is this year a favorite one not only for dress gowns, velvets, silk and cloth, but for trimmings in beads, braids, or embroidery.

Of French women entering the professions Jules Simon says: "A pretty woman will always be a most dangerous lawyer." Then he adds, "There were several women who were great teachers—Hypatia, for instance. She spoke behind a curtain. They understood the arguments she uttered; they did not see the argument she was. We shall be a little embarrassed with pretty women when they begin to struggle with us at elections, and more if they make personal visits upon the influential electors. It is the mistake, the misfortune of women to demand equality with the men. They are often asked, 'How can you demand equality when you are weak?' but it would be only just to add, 'How can you demand equality when you are pretty?'"

Bookbinding seems a pleasant employment for women. To learn the trade requires study and patient work, but women learn just as easily as men and the work seems better suited to them. A London woman, Miss Sarah Pridgen, has made a great success at it. She has plenty of orders, charges good prices, and does excellent work.

Most people like to have a shawl or wrap of some kind on the lounge. One made specially for this purpose, that can be tossed and wound about without looking so mussed as a shawl is sure to do it, is made of strips of crocheted worsted, the bright ends and ends left over from other work. Make these strips two yards long and eight inches wide. They can be alternated with strips of solid color, of cloth, velvet, or pattern, making a very pretty rug. It should be lined with some soft woolen goods—an old woolen dress ripped up and dyed a soft color will do. The edges should be bound together with a heavy cord and the cover and lining knotted together with firm knots in diamonds, farther apart than the knotting for a quilt would be. This makes a very comfortable and bright "slumber-rug," as these lounge covers are often called.

Never iron silk stockings. Black or white ones should be washed carefully in the following way: Make a strong lather of soap and water and let them stand in it for a little while. Then with the hands rub the soiled places out. Then the stockings should be turned wrong side out and rubbed again. Rinse them out in clear warm water and hang them up until they are nearly dry. Then they should be stretched and smoothed into shape.

A great many of the Fall gowns of dark wool are brightened with green—especially brown. Brown and green is the most popular combination of colors, and very pretty it is. It is used for hats as well as gowns. Brown and green separately, too, seem to delight femininity just now.

A Victoria plaid blouse worn with a dark blue or heavy silk skirt makes a dainty costume. Of course a black velvet sash completes it.

A rather ornamental bench for the library or hall can be made out of a wash-bench. It should be painted with some of the enamel paints, or else stained the desired color, and then cushioned with harmonizing shades of pretty one in white and gold and a thick cushion, covered with a light brown and white cretonne. The cushion was tied to the bench with broad, golden-brown ribbons. The ribbons were tied behind the supports of the bench, and the square bow was on top. Another pretty one was stained a mahogany color, and had old-rose for the predominating shade in the cushion.

The most interesting part of a novel—the proposal—has been depicted in various ways. Mostly the novelists like to make the hero declare that he cannot live without the heroine, for in 81 cases out of a hundred this is just what was said. A St. Louis man, D. R. McAnally, has collected some statistics on this point that will prove interesting to all lovers of lovers. The cases under consideration were taken from 100 novels. Sixty-seven of the proposing men kiss the girl on the lips; one kisses the young lady on her nose, but it is recorded that he did it by mistake. However, his objective point is not given. Fourteen of the gentlemen have quins, and during the interesting proceedings three stand on one foot while 53 stand on two. Out of 100 proposers only six, it is told, kneel, and of them four only got down on one knee. In the meantime the hundred women proposed to have not been idle. As a rule, they fell into the man's arms—that is, 51 of them acted in this way.

Further, 72 had eyes full of love, and more over 67 of them retold their respective lovers on the respective shoulders of their respective lovers. One girl weezed, but it says in a footnote the girl was under 16 years of age, therefore this cannot be considered a precedent; also one struggled not to be kissed, and the conditions in this case preclude it from establishing a precedent, because the maiden was over 40. The womanly intuition of the heroines shows up strongly. 87 of them were expecting something of the sort when the proposal was made, and only four are described as being greatly surprised. The most peculiar fact is that in six instances the girl kissed the man first.

But these are all cases where the question was happily answered. Of the other cases only 50 are taken, but usually the rejected lovers rush madly away, for there are over half of the 60 who do so. Fifteen of them have to clear their shoulders of their respective lovers. One girl weezed, but it says in a footnote the girl was under 16 years of age, therefore this cannot be considered a precedent; also one struggled not to be kissed, and the conditions in this case preclude it from establishing a precedent, because the maiden was over 40. The womanly intuition of the heroines shows up strongly.